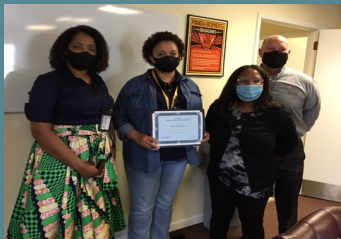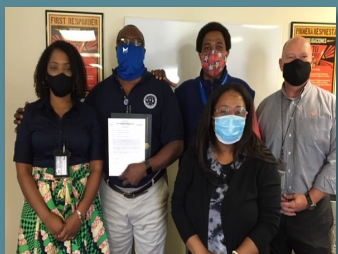**MT. MEIGS CAMPUS**
Pamlyn Rogers

MT. MEIGS CAMPUS
Lindsey Roux

AUTAUGA CAMPUS
James Manning

VACCA CAMPUS
Marshall Tolbert

Almost half (45%) of Youth Services Aides and Senior Aides received bonus pay last quarter

Congratulations!

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

September 2020 Newsletter

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Recently, I was able to visit a juvenile justice facility that had made tremendous strides in the programs and activities offered to the youth housed there. Although some programs had been well established, some were relatively new and the youth appeared to be engaged and busy all day. For the older youth no longer in school, there was a robust Job Readiness program complete with on campus job internships for the youth. Their modified GED program promoted their ability to double the number of GED Certificates awarded after one year! They even had a small number of youth attending on-line college classes due to improvements in their remote technology. Beyond education and employment opportunities, the facility had focused their efforts to provide meaningful rehabilitative interventions and activities. Youth regularly participated in activities that helped them with social skills, anger management, and conflict resolution. Significant work had been done with their behavioral management point system that incorporated restorative justice elements. Students were even able to select special activities of interest to them which served as incentives for behavior. A number of youth and staff reported that they liked the new programs and felt that the new structure helped with behavior problems and gave the youth more opportunities for success at the facility and when they returned home.

The facility I have just described is one that I have not seen in person. It is one that I have envisioned for our agency. This particular facility is the Mt. Meigs Campus in the year 2021. This vision exists in the minds of many other DYS employees who are working everyday to get us closer to this reality. Step by step and goal by goal we will get there. The pandemic and social unrest in our country has challenged us in many ways, but it has also provided an opportunity to reinvent how we will provide services in the future. I am looking forward to 2021. How about you?!

Stay Safe and Healthy.

Steven Lafreniere

DYS to Participate in Virtual Job Fair

On Wednesday, September 16th, the Alabama Department of Youth Services will participate in Congresswoman Terri Sewell's annual job fair. This year, due to COVID-19, the job fair will be presented virtually to job seekers. DYS will have the opportunity to provide an overview of the agency, the DYS job application process, and current employment opportunities available. DYS is in the process of identifying additional virtual job fairs to participate in within the next few months.
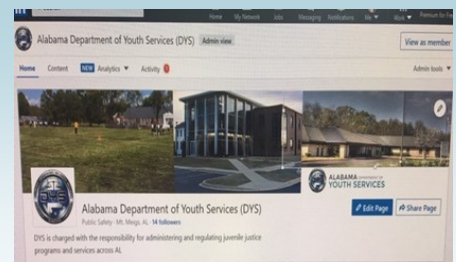
Quality Assurance / Facility Improvement Planning Updates

- The Vacca campus is working towards the development of a new Daily Earning Chart (DEC), an updated student handbook, and positive incentive program.

- The Mt. Meigs campus is working towards developing consistent guidelines for consequences of major and minor rule violations.

- A suicide observation training for direct care staff will be scheduled in the near future for all campuses.

- Leadership at Mt. Meigs and Vacca campuses continue to utilize IRIS reports to develop targeted approaches to decrease incidents (location of incidents, youth involved).

- *PbS data collection will begin Thursday, October 1st*.

Marketing DYS Employment Opportunities

We would like to encourage everyone to follow DYS on LinkedIn. Our agency will promote job opportunities with DYS and share information and resources relevant to juvenile justice.
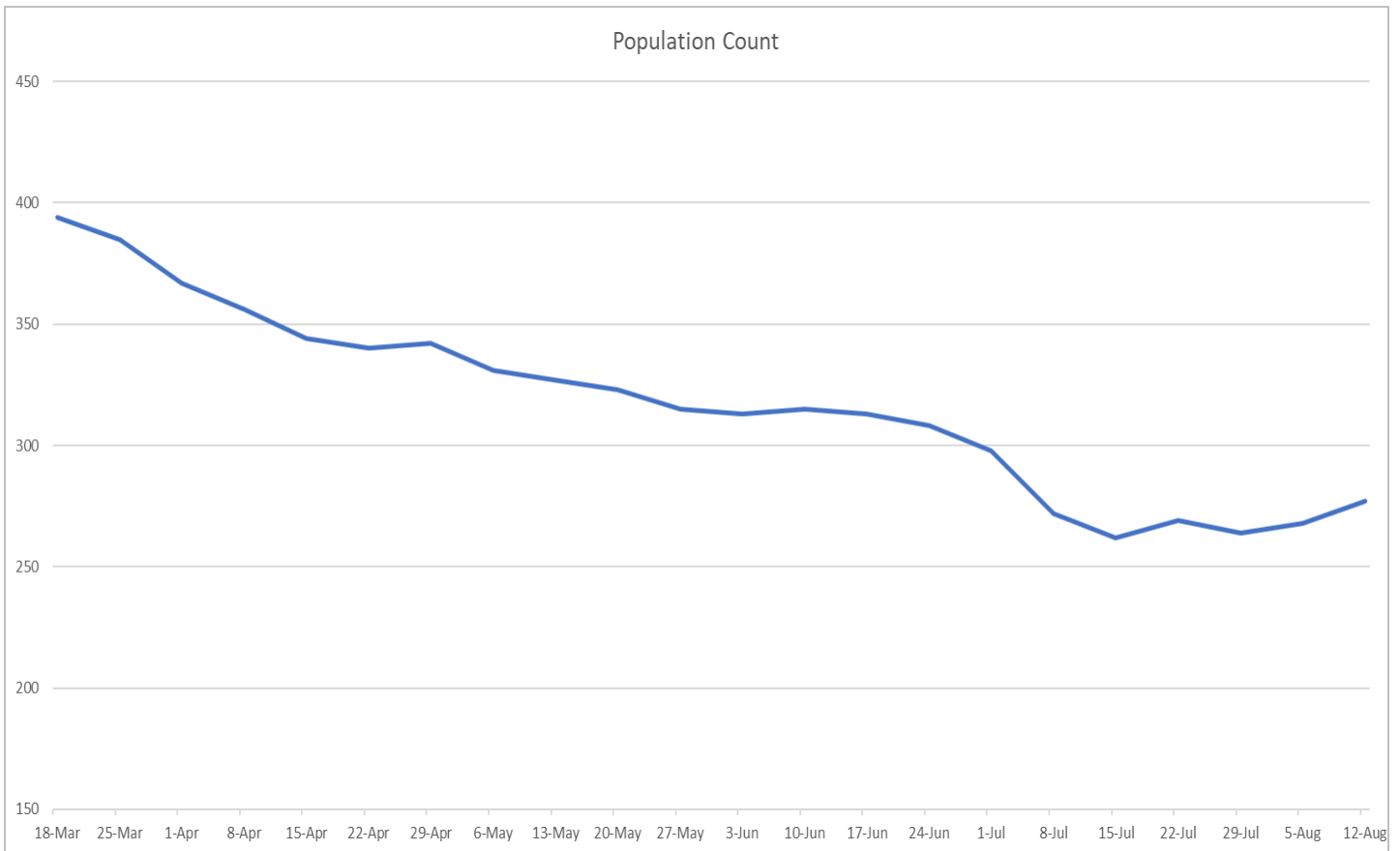
A Special Thank You to the Students at Auburn University!

DYS would like to thank the staff from ABSOPP for coordinating an Auburn University student donation drive for the Mt. Meigs campus. The students donated

DYS Admissions Down 34% during Pandemic

Using average population count of 420

Population Count

A line graph showing population count declining from about 393 on 18-Mar to around 262 by 15-Jul, then rising slightly to about 277 by 12-Aug. Y-axis ranges from 150 to 450. X-axis dates: 18-Mar, 25-Mar, 1-Apr, 8-Apr, 15-Apr, 22-Apr, 29-Apr, 6-May, 13-May, 20-May, 27-May, 3-Jun, 10-Jun, 17-Jun, 24-Jun, 1-Jul, 8-Jul, 15-Jul, 22-Jul, 29-Jul, 5-Aug, 12-Aug.

Staff and Youth COVID-19 Testing Results

Category	Tested Negative	Tested Positive
Staff Tested	219	19
Contract Staff Tested	22	4
Youth Tested	181	9

■ Tested Negative   ■ Tested Positive